

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 96-358-C - ORDER NO. 97-712
AUGUST 19, 1997

IN RE: Petition of AT&T Communications of the) ORDER
Southern States, Inc. for Arbitration) GRANTING
with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.) MOTION FOR
) CREATION OF
) A DOCKET

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) pursuant to the Motion by AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T) for the establishment of a Generic Docket on Unbundled Network Element (UNE) costs, and to establish a hearing schedule which permits consideration of all parties interests and views and allows for adequate preparation time, including time for discovery, so that a complete record can be generated.

In support of its Motion, AT&T notes several factors. Pursuant to Order No. 97-189, issued in the present Docket, the Commission set certain interim prices for the UNEs, including prices for called transport and termination and certain support elements relating to network interconnection. The Commission has required BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) to furnish verifiable cost studies for UNEs and that a true-up process be conducted to ascertain the actual cost of elements, on the basis of which permanent cost-based prices can be established.

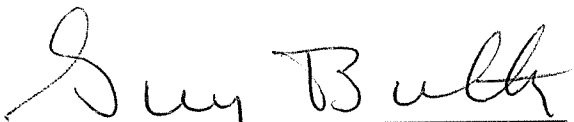
It appears to this Commission that the Motion of AT&T has merit. AT&T states that in lieu of a cost proceeding under the present Docket, that the Commission should institute a Generic Cost Studies Docket to determine permanent cost based UNE rates to be offered by BellSouth to AT&T and all other carriers interconnecting with BellSouth. According to AT&T, such a Generic Proceeding would preserve the rights of parties subject to an arbitrated agreement, like AT&T and BellSouth, and protect the due process rights of other carriers, the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate) and other potential Intervenors affected by the level of BellSouth's UNE rates. Also, AT&T claims that a Generic Docket would be advantageous to the Commission in resolving the question of BellSouth's UNE costs in a single proceeding.

The Commission has examined this matter, and hereby grants the Motion of AT&T for establishment of a Generic Docket in this matter, based on the reasoning stated above. We shall consider the hearing schedule at a later time.

DOCKET NO. 96-358-C - ORDER NO. 97-712
AUGUST 19, 1997
PAGE 3

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until
further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)